



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**



Public Hearing – March 1, 2010  
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Amey W. Marrella  
Department of Environmental Protection

**House Bill No. 5005 (Committee Bill) - AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BUSINESS TAX  
CREDIT FOR HOTELS AND INNS THAT CREATE GREEN, ALLERGY-FREE  
ROOMS FOR THEIR GUESTS**

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Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding House Bill No. 5005 (Committee Bill), AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BUSINESS TAX CREDIT FOR HOTELS AND INNS THAT CREATE GREEN, ALLERGY-FREE ROOMS FOR THEIR GUESTS.

The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) fully supports the intent of this bill to provide clean, healthy lodging opportunities for those sensitive to allergens and chemicals. The Department has been supportive of reducing the presence of materials in the environment that pose a risk to both human health and the environment. The Department has also embraced the movement to provide environmentally friendly lodging options and to that end has, created a Green Lodging certification program.

The Department, with the cooperation of the Connecticut hoteliers and the Commission on Culture and Tourism, has created a Green Lodging certification program. Nine hotels in Connecticut have already been certified as “green” hotels, and the proposal in this bill provides a logical next step for those in the lodging industry. For more information on the Green Lodging program please see [www.ct.gov/dep/greenlodging](http://www.ct.gov/dep/greenlodging).

These actions promoting “green” industry and jobs are great examples of how environmental protection can be complementary to economic prosperity.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the DEP’s views on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact the Department’s legislative liaison, Robert LaFrance, at (860) 424-3401 or [Robert.LaFrance@CT.gov](mailto:Robert.LaFrance@CT.gov).